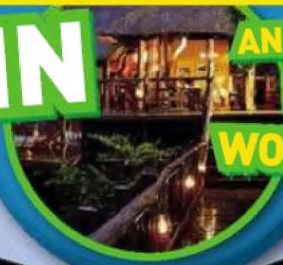




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HI, KIDS



WE WON THE BEST-DRESSED COMPETITION.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

HI FIONA

I THINK NG KIDS IS AWESOME, I'M LEARNING AND ENJOYING THE MAGAZINE A LOT. I HAVE A PET BIRD AND I LOVE HIM TO BITS. HIS NAME IS BLOO AND IT'S HIS DREAM TO BE IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS MAGAZINE SOME DAY (PSSST! IT'S MY DREAM TOO). ONE OF THE THINGS BLOO AND I REALLY ENJOY DOING TOGETHER IS READING NG KIDS. HE SIMPLY LOVES ALL THE COOL PICTURES. THANKS FOR A GREAT MAGAZINE.

VASHIR KEMRAJ, 5, DURBAN

WRITE TO US!

Send us your letters, birthdays, pictures and comments. We want to hear from you, so start writing!

• Write to us at: The Editor, NG KIDS, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000.

• Send us an e-mail to fiona@ngkids.co.za or SMS* us a letter to "NGK Letters" 33970.

* Standard rates apply for MMSs, so ask your parents first! SMSs cost R1.50. Free SMSs do not apply. See www.ngkids.co.za for terms and conditions.

If January is about making plans for things you want to do or happen in the year ahead, February is more about appreciating what you already have, particularly the people in your life. We have three simple ideas to show a little heart. See our Valentine's craft on page 43.

I'm very lucky to work with a great bunch of people. It's fun working together and occasionally we do something that is quite wacky. At the end of last year we did a fun run together and all got dressed up as bugs. Our wings were made from recycled copies of NG KIDS. Imagine us flying around the crowds buzzing with laughter.

Don't forget to enter our Young Artists Competition. There are some great prizes to be won. Best of all is you get the chance to show South Africa just how creative you can be.

International Mother Language Day is on 21 February. Your mother tongue is usually the language you learn to speak first. The day also supports multilingualism. We have eleven official languages in South Africa. Can you remember what they are? Turn the page upside down to see them all.

Dare to Explore!

Fiona@ngkids.co.za

Fiona

Don't forget to complete our Reader's Survey on page 25. Not only will you help us make NG KIDS even better but you could win an awesome family holiday.

SUBSCRIBER OF THE MONTH

February's subscribers of the month are: Emme (13), Heno (11) and Nehan (9) Pretorius from George, Vea Kluys (12) from Welgedacht, Christiaan (13) and Danielle (11) Visser from Kuils River and Kaylin (9) and Reuben (6) Gombos from Vanderbijlpark.

Each family won two MAKE KITS valued

at R240. Get crafty and creative with a kit that has everything you need to make your own personalised, pre-sewn soft character. Customise your own Owl, Alien, Bird or Cat. Design your character's look and style, paint and stuff it. MAKE-KITS unlock your creativity. Visit www.yilasophia.com for more information.



BLOO LOVES NG KIDS TOO.



South Africa's eleven official languages: isiXhosa, isiZulu, Afrikaans, English, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Ndebele.

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REPRODUCTION Media24
PRINTING Paarl Media Cape
DISTRIBUTION: 

Media24 Lifestyle
Leefstyl

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS is published and distributed twelve times a year by Media24, with permission of the National Geographic Society, Washington, DC 20036.

Published by the National Geographic Society.
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



Inside

Animal Dating Game

In the animal kingdom males strut their stuff to win picky females as mates.

page 14



No Arms, Amazing Feet

This kid does everything you can do: he sends SMSs, eats, writes and plays basketball – with his feet!

page 20

Extreme Explorer

Meet Mireya Mayor, an animal scientist with a dream job.

page 30



Flying Monsters

NG KIDS goes behind the scenes of the new movie *Flying Monsters*.

page 36

Young Artists Competition

Send us your artworks and win amazing prizes!

page 38



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On the Cover

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COVER INSETS: © ISTOCKPHOTO (EXPLORER); ANNETTE REDNER (DOG)
PAGE 3: © SEBASTIAN VOIGT (EDITOR)
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details and download
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{inside}

For Your Diary **21 Feb**International
Mother
Language Day

BY FIONA THOMSON

Valentine's Day
14 Feb**scoop**YOU CAN TRACK CURIOSITY ON
TWITTER@MARSCURIOSITY.**Curious about Mars**

If we ever decided to pack and leave our planet, Mars would be where we'd go. It's just a short journey of 214 days through space. With its red, sandy surface it's just like the Namib desert. That doesn't sound inviting, particularly with no atmosphere, but it's the only other option we have in the solar system. That's why NASA has launched *Curiosity*. "It's truly the largest and most complex piece of equipment ever placed on another planet," says Doug McCuistion, director of NASA's Mars programme. It was launched on 26 November 2011 with a little help from South Africa. The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) was asked by NASA to help track the mission, which cost about R19,1 billion. "It's a privilege to be part of this space mission," says Tiaan Strydom of SANSA. The journey will take about seven months and the craft will land on Mars between 6 and 12 August 2012.

DID YOU KNOW?

People born on
29 February are
called 'leaplings'!

One, two, three leap!

This year is a leap year, so February 2012 is 29 days long. According to Guinness World Records there is only one family with three generations all born on a leap year day. Grandpa Peter Anthony Keogh was born on 29 February 1940, his son was born on that day in 1964 and his granddaughter on the same day in 1996.

Wiggle Waggle

A record number of people and their dogs took part in the SPCA Royal Canine Wiggle Waggle Walkathon on Sunday 20 November 2011 in Tokai, Cape Town. They helped to raise R250 000 for the Cape of Good Hope SPCA, which is one of 94 SPCAs in South Africa.

There were 2 530 people and 1 746 dogs, who wiggled and wagged along the 4,5-kilometre course in South Africa's biggest dog walk. For more information on SPCA fundraising events, visit www.nspca.co.za for details of your local SPCA.

YALE ROBINEAU, DYLAN REED AND
TIGGER FROM CAPE TOWN

**LEARN A
NEW WORD!**
The Xhosa word for
dog is *inja* and in
North Sotho a
puppy is
kunyane.

NASA/ JPL (CURIOSITY) TAMED
AND FRAMED PET
PHOTOGRAPHY (BOYS AND
DOG), URBAN BREW (BRAAM
AND PETE), © ISTOCKPHOTO
(PANCAKE, JUMPING),
© NUMETRO (WE BOUGHT
A ZOO)



MATT DAMON PLAYS BENJAMIN IN THE MOVIE.

Benjamin Mee worked as a journalist for *The Guardian* newspaper in England. Together with his family he made the life-changing decision to buy Dartmoor Zoo in 2006. Now his story has been turned into a movie, *We Bought a Zoo*, starring Matt Damon. NG KIDS chats to Benjamin and his kids about it ...

NGK: Did you mean to buy a zoo?

Benjamin Mee: No, the estate agent details showed a house for sale on 12 hectares. It was run down, but it looked perfect and just happened to have 220 exotic animals in the garden. It was all going to be bulldozed away if somebody didn't grab it and fix it. We just had to do this. Of course the real drama involved restoring the zoo, building up to the opening day. Four years later we're still struggling financially but we're very happy.

NGK: Have you always been an animal lover?

BM: Ever since I was about four I've wanted to work with animals.

NGK: Do any of your real experiences appear in the film?

BM: An interesting one happened when Matt Damon (who plays Benjamin) had to jump backwards out of the porcupine enclosure. That really happened to me.



PRICKLY PORCUPINE

NGK: Okay, Ella and Milo, what is it like living in a zoo?

MM: It's great. I've discovered that animals can do much more than you think they can do. We have some monkeys that are extremely intelligent. We have raccoons and we have discovered they can remember things for a long time. If they like strawberries, you feed them a strawberry when they start to eat solids and later they will remember that strawberries are their favourite food. In captivity they can live up to 20 years and remember things for that long, which would be a struggle for humans!

NGK: And finally, Benjamin, what are your hopes for the film?

BM: I hope it will be inspiring and will show that if you really want something and if you really think you can do it, then you CAN do it. Don't be put off by people discouraging you. You can achieve anything if you really set your mind to it. Just don't buy a zoo! It's too difficult. But I do hope people will be inspired to act on their dreams as I have done and just go for it.

Time to flip a pancake

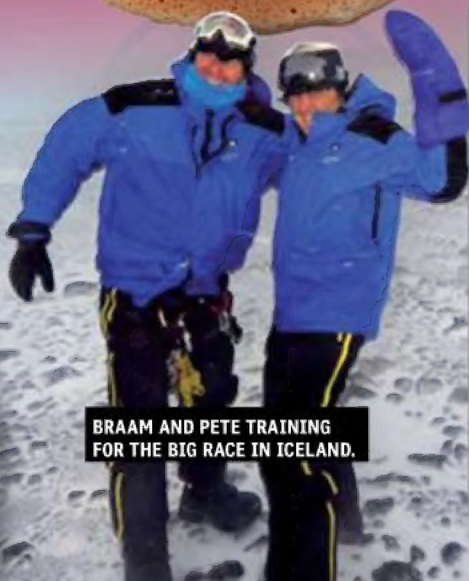
Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day is on 21 February. The date changes from year to year as it is linked to Easter. Pancakes are too tasty just to save for one day and are eaten all year around the world.

In America and Canada they are called flapjacks and are thick, fluffy rounds of fried batter. They are usually served as a stack with syrup, butter and sometimes bacon. In France a pancake is called a *crêpe* and it is delicate and thin with a sweet or savoury filling. One of the most popular is chocolate spread. In Ethiopia pancakes are known as *injera*. They are made with yeast and are more spongy than our pancakes.

The only way is up

Roald Amundsen from Norway and his party of explorers were the first people ever to reach the South Pole. They planted the Norwegian flag in the snow on 14 December 1911 after beating British explorers led by Robert Falcon Scott by 34 days. A hundred years later the race is on again. Six teams from around the world will take part in a cross-country ski race of approximately 750 kilometres.

Extreme adventurer Braam Malherbe and his friend Pete van Kets will be representing South Africa in this new race to the South Pole.



BRAAM AND PETE TRAINING FOR THE BIG RACE IN ICELAND.

AWESOME TOP TRUMP CARDS!

Top Trumps brings the classic card game "war" into the 21st century! This card game provides **gaming on the go** for **two to six players**. The game is so simple that you could challenge anyone.

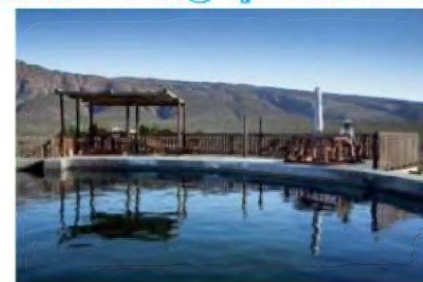
Blowfish Entertainment has made available more than **20 awesome Top Trumps themes** including Dinosaurs, Predators, Bugs, Top Gear and Hello Kitty. Register on the Top Trumps blog at www.toptrumps.co.za for more information.



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RADICAL RATANGA ADVENTURES

Ratanga Junction, the **Wildest Place in Africa**, will be open daily for the **Western Cape** school holidays from **2 December 2011** until **10 January 2012** (closed for Christmas). It has more than **30 attractions** ranging from adrenaline-pumping thrill rides to **family and kiddie rides** and **park boats**.

There is an extensive **live entertainment** programme to keep you enthralled. Don't miss the **host** of **new park characters** that have joined the favourites **Maggie and Murphy**. See you there!

Go to www.ratanga.co.za or telephone **0861-200-300** for further details.



Amazing Animals

SPEED
LIMIT?
WHAT SPEED
LIMIT?

DOG RIDES SCOOTER

NORMAN
TAKES HIS
SCOOTER FOR
A SPIN.

Georgia, America

Forget walking. When Norman the Briard dog wants to get around, he uses a much fancier form of transportation. The pooch has been riding his family's scooter since he was a puppy. "One day we put him on the scooter and wheeled him around for fun," owner Karen Cobb says. "He didn't want to get off."

Karen and her kids trained Norman to ride the scooter much like a human would. Propping his front paws on the handlebars, the dog stands on the scooter's board with one back paw and propels himself forward with the other.

When Norman goes riding around the neighbourhood, Karen is always by his side to make sure he's safe. "The second we take out the scooter, his tail starts wagging," she says.

But Norman soon may be ready for some new wheels: he's learning to ride a bike!



THANKS
FOR SAVING
MY WOOL!

BY SARAH WASSNER FLYNN

DONKEY SAVES SHEEP

Scarborough, England

Stanley the sheep was quietly munching on grass near his barn when a runaway dog lunged at him, sinking its teeth into Stanley's side. The terrified sheep bleated loudly but the dog refused to unclamp its jaws.

That's when Dotty the donkey sprang into action. She charged at the dog, bit its back and pinned it to the ground.

Finally the dog released its grip on Stanley and ran off. The sheep quickly recovered from the dog bite and his good pal Dotty became a local hero.

"Donkeys are protective by nature," says veterinarian Elaine Pendlebury, who presented Dotty with an award for animal bravery. "She risked her life for Stanley, which was very noble. It just shows how far animals will go for their friends."



STANLEY LOOKS ON AS DOTTY RECEIVES A BLUE RIBBON FOR HER HEROISM.

SHOULD I
TRY BALLET
OR HIP-HOP
NEXT?

Stanley and Dotty



Norman

Lucky

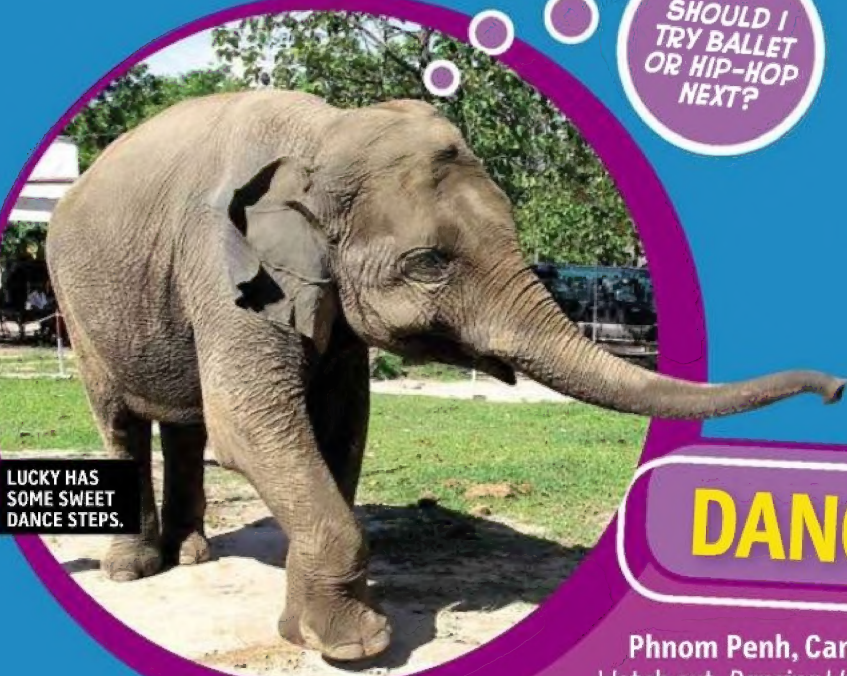
DANCING ELEPHANT

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Watch out, *Dancing With the Stars*. Lucky the elephant could be some hefty competition. Whenever her keeper at the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre turns on music, the 11-year-old Asian elephant kicks her feet, shakes her head and swings her trunk to the beat.

Lucky had been taught to start moving when music began playing as a way to prevent boredom. But as the tune continued, she came up with her own steps. "Now she makes up a dance on the spot whenever she hears music," says Michael Zwirn of Wildlife Alliance, a group that helps provide care for animals at Phnom Tamao.

Scientist Aniruddh Patel thinks Lucky's moves come to her naturally. "Like humans, some elephants seem to be able to detect a musical beat and move to it," he says. Lucky isn't ready for centre stage yet, but she's definitely moving in the right direction.



LUCKY HAS SOME SWEET DANCE STEPS.

ASTONISHING
STORIES FROM
THE FILES OF

Guinness World Records



BALLOON

PLANE

Leave the paper aeroplanes to the amateurs. John Cassidy created the world's largest balloon sculpture with this aeroplane made of 434 balloons. It took John more than ten hours to blow up each balloon and build the 3,6-metre-long plane, which has a wingspan greater than the length of a four-door car. This isn't the only balloon vehicle John has created. He's also made life-size pickup trucks and cars out of balloons. Hope he has accidental pop insurance.

— Jen Rini

BEARD REACHES

NEW LENGTHS



This guy's beard is so long, he had to stand on a stool for someone to measure it! Sarwan Singh's beard is 2,4 metres, the longest on a living male. He may have to toss his beard over his shoulder to keep from tripping over it, but not many people can say their beard is longer than a pro basketball player is tall. Ask your dad to give the record a try—he just needs to stop shaving for 15½ years.

— Sarah Youngson



Check out other amazing records in the new book **Guinness World Records 2012**.

DEAFENING CAT PURR



When Smokey the cat purrs so loudly that her owner can't have a phone conversation, no one takes it *purr*-sonally. Smokey holds the record for the loudest purr by a domestic cat, booming in at 67.7 decibels. That's 14 times as thunderous as a normal cat purr and almost as earsplitting as a vacuum cleaner. Owner Ruth Adams says the secret to living with the noisy feline is to make sure Smokey has a full tummy before doing anything that needs ears (like watching TV). Why? After a good meal, Smokey usually takes a nice, long catnap.

— Jen Rini

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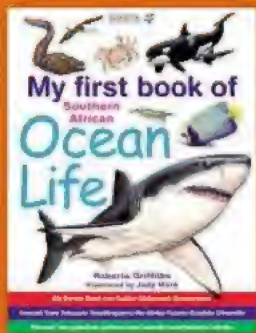
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Blue Cranes Bounce Back!

The blue crane is a truly South African bird. Apart from a few in Namibia they are only found here. Most of them live in the grasslands of Mpumalanga, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal; in the Karoo and in the Overberg region. Cranes are blue-grey and have very long legs as well as a distinctive bulb-shaped face. There are two other species in South Africa, the wattled crane and the crowned crane.

The birds mate for life and the pair “dance” together in a ritual that includes bowing, jumping and wing flapping.

In Xhosa the blue crane is called “Indwe”. Its feathers were highly prized and would be presented by the chief to a tribesman who did something brave or good for the village. In Zulu culture only the king was allowed to wear the feathers in his headdress.

If you drive down the N2 through the Overberg region it’s quite likely that you’ll see blue cranes in wheat fields. In the past farmers used to shoot the birds as they damaged the crops. “These birds are vulnerable,” says Kerry Morrison, manager of the Endangered Wildlife Trust’s African Crane Conservation Programme. “They started disappearing in the 1980s and 1990s because of poisoning, collisions with power lines and habitat loss.”

The good news is that the number of birds in the Overberg has increased. The conservationists worked with farmers and now many in the region are happy to welcome this graceful bird onto their land.

Another simple idea which made a big difference was attaching flappers to power lines in the area. They make the wires more visible to the birds so they can avoid them.

MOTHER TONGUE FOCUS:
The Xhosa word for blue crane is Indwe and it is Mogolodi in North Sotho.

BLUE CRANE FACTS

HEIGHT

one metre

WEIGHT

4 to 6 kilograms

HIM OR HER?

It’s hard to tell them apart.

FOOD

Grasses, grains and insects



THESE FLAPPERS ON POWER LINES HELP BIRDS TO SEE THE DEADLY WIRES AND AVOID THEM WHEN THEY SWOOP DOWN TO LAND IN THE WHEAT FIELDS OF THE OVERBERG.

Bet you
**didn't
know**

BY CRISPIN BOYER

7

cool facts about castles

1

Disneyland's **Sleeping Beauty Castle** was inspired by **Neuschwanstein Castle** in Germany.

2

The **first castles** were built about **1 000** years ago.

3

The castle **barber** was also the **dentist**.

4

England's **Windsor Castle** is about **200** times larger than a typical house.

5

The number of people who lived in some castles could have filled a small village.

6

Ireland's **Blarney Castle** has a **stone** that visitors **kiss** for **luck**.

7

Supplies were often **smuggled** into castles through **secret tunnels**.

The Really Wild Dating Game

Some male animals flash bright colours, fight each other or sing songs. Why do they strut their stuff? Some scientists think it's to attract picky females. A big display of colour – such as a peacock fanning his huge, colourful tail, will really attract the female peacock. The message his tail sends may be that he must be strong to lug around his big, heavy set of feathers! By choosing the males that are best at fending off rivals and protecting territory, females get the biggest, toughest, healthiest mates. It's hard work to lay eggs or have babies. That's why the females often get to be the choosers!

Name: Western grebe

Where I live: Large lakes in western North America

Hobbies: Relaxing in the water, enjoying seafood

Favourite Foods: Carp, herring, molluscs, crabs and salamanders

Things that might attract me to a male: A loud, trilling call and the ability to dance with me while running on the water.

About me: I build a floating nest made of heaps of plant material anchored to vegetation in a shallow part of a marsh. When my babies hatch, I will carry them around on my back.





Name: Mandrill

Where I live: Rain forests in Africa

Hobby: Grooming friends

Favourite Foods: Fruit, nuts, insects

Things that might attract me to a male: Bright red-and-blue snout; big, hairy "mane" and bright purple rear end.

About me: At about ten kilograms, I'm a third his size.



Name: Midland painted turtle

Where I live: Canada and North America

Hobby: Soaking up the rays on my basking spot. I'm cold-blooded so I need to get energy from the sun.

Favourite Foods: Water plants, algae and small water creatures such as insects, crustaceans and fish

Things that might attract me to a male: Long claws to stroke my chin.

About me: I'm slightly larger than my mate and can live for more than 55 years.

MALE



FEMALE



FEMALE

Name: African lion

Where I live: Grassland and scrub

Hobby: Sleeping most of the day

Favourite Foods: Wildebeests, impalas, zebras and hogs

Things that might attract me to a male: Dark mane, loud roar and the ability to fight off rivals.

About me: I'm a better hunter than my mate.

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MALE

Name: Red-eyed tree frog

Where I live: Rainforests of central America and northern South America

Hobby: Jumping from tree to tree at night

Favourite Foods: Crickets, flies, moths and even small frogs

Things that might attract me to a male: Loud, croaking voice and good balancing skills for knocking rivals off our branch.

About me: I'm slightly larger than my mate.

Name: Vogelkop bowerbird

Where I live: Western New Guinea, Indonesia

Hobby: Flying around and mimicking sounds

Favourite Foods: Insects, leaves, nectar and fruit

Things that might attract me to a male: Skill to build and decorate a bower or shelter beautifully. Must also have a good singing voice.

About me: I prefer raising my chicks alone.

MALE

FEMALE

MALE

FEMALE

Name: Elk

Where I live: Northern climates

Hobby: Hanging out in herds

Favourite Foods: Grass, woody plants

Things that might attract me to a male: Huge, long antlers; fighting ability and a loud, booming voice.

About me: I have no antlers.

MALE

FEMALE

AVALLANCHE!

Powers
of Nature

BY SCOTT ELDER

One by one the three **skiers cautiously** move across and down the **snow-covered mountain**. **Janet Kellam** skis last. When she reaches the middle of the slope, she realises **the snowpack** is much **more dangerous** than it had seemed.



Search dogs

"The whole slope shattered like a pane of glass – I could see it cracking around my feet," she says. She suddenly fell. "You just think it can't be happening."

But it was happening. Kellam was caught in an avalanche – a massive, potentially deadly snowslide that thunders down the side of a mountain. As part of a survey team she had been observing snow conditions in a remote canyon of the Smoky Mountains in America to prepare a forecast of avalanche risks for people venturing into the wintry wilderness. Janet, an expert avalanche forecaster, feared she might become one of the 30 or so people who die in avalanches every year in the western United States.

ANATOMY OF AN AVALANCHE

"We think of snow as a nice, soft, fluffy material," says Karl Birkeland, an avalanche scientist with the USDA Forest Service National Avalanche Centre. "But when it builds up, it's really quite heavy. Avalanches can destroy buildings and topple giant trees like twigs. They can travel downhill at more than 240 kilometres an hour and people caught in avalanches can get buried or slammed into trees or rocks."

The most powerful avalanches occur when a layer of tightly packed snow builds up on top of a weaker, less-compressed layer, usually because of new snowfall or snow piled up by strong winds. When too much weight is put on this unstable snowpack, the bottom layer collapses and the top layer breaks apart, causing an avalanche. Other common avalanche triggers are overhanging blocks of snow that fall, or even humans – usually rural snowshoers, snowmobilers, or skiers like Janet. "I was the straw that broke the camel's back," she says.

SWEPT AWAY

The strong snow layer that fractured beneath her swept down the mountainside, carrying her like a sliding carpet. As she approached the flat valley floor, the snow slowed. "Suddenly the snow on the part of the slope that had broken above me caught up and shoved me down," she says. "It was like getting hit by a gigantic, crashing ocean wave... I was completely buried."

Remembering that most avalanche fatalities are caused by suffocation, Janet immediately tried to dig an air pocket in front of her face. But



PEOPLE CLEAR DEBRIS AFTER A 1999 AVALANCHE IN AUSTRIA.

STAY SAFE

It's snow season in the northern hemisphere. Here are some tips for staying safe if you're going on a skiing holiday.



DANGER: AVALANCHES

WARNINGS

Before heading to the slopes, check the local avalanche advisory and obey warning signs. Never go alone. Cross risky areas one person at a time.

EQUIPMENT

Prepare to be your own rescue team, because help probably won't arrive in time. Bring the safety essentials: avalanche transceiver, probe and spade.

EVADE

If an avalanche rumbles to life above you, try to ski, snowmobile, or hike across the slope and out of its way.

FIGHT

If swept downhill by an avalanche, fight to stay close to the surface. When the snow begins to settle, clear an air pocket in front of your face.

smell avalanche victims under the snow and show rescuers where to dig.

she couldn't. "I could barely wiggle the tips of my fingers," she says. "It was like being in cement." No rescue team would be able to reach her before she ran out of air. Janet had to hope her two colleagues would find her. "Even though I knew we had all the safety equipment and they were highly trained, it was absolutely horrifying," she says.

QUICK RESCUE

Eventually Janet heard a familiar crunch above her – boots on snow! Her colleagues had watched her until she disappeared. They switched their avalanche transceivers to receive and followed the signal from the transceiver Janet wore. They located her under the snow using a search probe and dug her out with a shovel.

"It was like time stood still," Janet says. "The five minutes it took them to find me and dig me out felt more like fifteen." Good thing it only seemed that long – at fifteen minutes, buried avalanche victims begin to suffocate. After only five, Janet's face had turned blue.

Later, the forecasting team learnt that heavy winds had ripped through the canyon – something their weather instruments missed – loading snow onto the slope. Had they known that, they would have steered clear of the hidden avalanche. Janet swears by the training and special equipment that saved her life. "It all helps," she says. "But in the end you don't want to get caught in an avalanche to begin with."

A cubic metre of mountain snow weighs about 225 kilograms.

No Arms, Ama

My sense of h
very strong



FEEDING MY DOG RUBY
CAN SOMETIMES TICKLE!

So I'm at the beach one summer and there's this little girl in the sand, just staring at me with her mouth wide open. I'm used to weird looks—I was born without arms.

"What happened to your arms?" she asks.

"I didn't eat my veggies when I was your age," I said. "So make sure you eat yours!"

The girl's dad was right there to let her know I was just joking. Still, some people think it's strange for me to poke fun at my disability. But having a sense of humour shows that I've accepted who I am. I probably do a lot of things differently (ever tried eating an apple with your toes?) but once you get to know me, you'll see I'm pretty much like you. Well, maybe I crack a few more jokes.

zing Feet

BY JAMES DENNEHY
AS TOLD TO RACHEL BUCHHOLZ
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KELLEY MILLER

umour and some
toes help me
accept who I am.



I CAN DRIVE
NOW THAT
I'M 16. HERE
MY BROTHER
GEORGE GIVES
ME A LESSON.



MY FRIENDS ARE
AWESOME—EVEN
IF THEY HAVE TO USE
THEIR ARMS TO HOIST
THEMSELVES ONTO
THE LOCKERS. I CAN
JUST JUMP RIGHT UP!

ONE COLLEGE COACH WAS SO IMPRESSED WITH MY THROWS, HE SHOWED A VIDEO OF ME TO HIS TEAM.



Sometimes you just **have to play the hand you've been dealt...** even if you weren't dealt any at all!

SMS WITH TOES

No one knows why I don't have arms—I was just born that way. But my disability didn't matter to my American parents. When I was two and a half, they adopted me from India. Earlier they had adopted my brother George, who also was born without arms. In fact, 8 of my 11 brothers and sisters are adopted. I couldn't keep anyone at arm's length even if I were able to!

I use my feet and toes just like you'd use your hands and fingers. I eat, write, type, SMS, cook, shoot basketball, brush my teeth and tie my shoes with my feet. When I can't use my feet, I figure out another way. Like when I'm walking the dog, I hold the lead in the crook of my neck and wrap it around my body if the dog goes crazy. To put

I USE MY BIG TOES TO SMS.



on my backpack, I kneel down, slip a strap over one shoulder, then kind of swing it back until it's over my other shoulder. I'm often asked how I learned to use my feet like hands. Honestly, it's not something I think about. Like brushing your teeth: you probably don't remember learning how. You just do it. And you don't think "how am I going to use this pencil" every time you write. Same with me. Using my feet comes naturally. I just do it.

That's not to say I don't need help from time to time. For instance, when George and I started learning how to

drive, our parents had to make a few adjustments to the car. They added a cover to the steering wheel for a better grip and extended the indicator so we could reach it with one foot. The other foot works the brake and accelerator.

It's nice to have people help me figure things out, but it's also important to be adaptable. I won't always have help available, so I have to come up with my own solutions. But I think that's true for anyone. Life is always changing. You can't let it throw you off.

BOTH FEET FORWARD

Once in a while a new teacher will tell me to take my arms out of my shirt or get my feet off the desk. That doesn't bother me. But sometimes I'll be eating at a restaurant—with my feet—and people will give me a look of disgust. That's a little harder to deal with. I mean, they're judging me before they even know me. I wish they'd get to know me first and then decide.

I just laugh at people like that—at least they've shown what kind of human beings they are. My friends and family always support me, but sometimes I have to stick up for myself. Once during class a kid was making fun of disabilities. I told him his jokes weren't

cool and he should stop. He did. If you let one person pick on you, the bullying will continue. You won't always have someone around to stick up for you, so you have to stick up for yourself.

One thing that helps me feel good is volunteering. My church builds a lot of houses for needy families and since I usually can't participate (I think I might end up nailing a foot to a wall), I work with kids who are at risk instead.

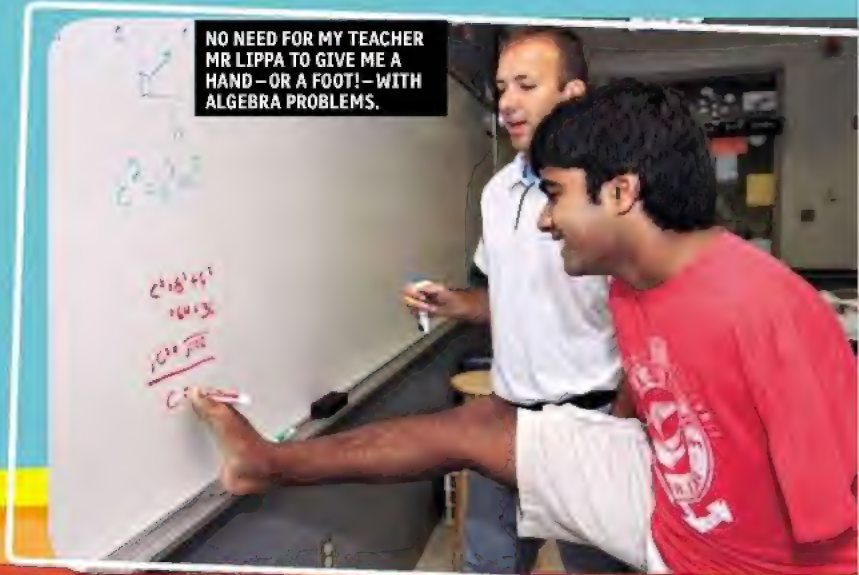
I show them that someone cares about them and accepts them for who they are. Many people have done that for me and I want to do the same for others.

For me it's all about acceptance and especially accepting yourself. You may not think you're "normal," but who decides what normal is? We're all unique in our own way—my way is just a little more obvious. So we need to be proud of our differences.

Sometimes you just have to play the hand you've been dealt—even if you weren't dealt any at all!



NO NEED FOR MY TEACHER MR LIPPA TO GIVE ME A HAND—OR A FOOT!—WITH ALGEBRA PROBLEMS.



COOL inventions

BY CATHY LU

CHECK YOUR SPEED

TRACK YOUR STATS



Feeling like a daredevil, you blast down the slopes. As you race past other skiers, you glance at the corner of your goggles, where a display shows data such as how fast you're going and how high up you are. Cool – but how do your goggles know so much about you? The Transcend goggles include sensors, GPS and other tools to measure your speed, altitude and how far you've gone. They also read the outside temperature and provide your location in case you need to call for help. At home you can transfer the stats to a computer. The next time your buddies refuse to believe how fast you were going down that black diamond run, just tell them the proof is in your goggles.

FLOATING AROUND THE WORLD



You're sitting in a giant observation deck high above the African savannah, watching lion cubs play and giraffes nibble trees. The SkyLifter floats like a blimp, manoeuvres like a helicopter and lifts and carries heavy objects to remote areas. It can be everything from a safari hotel to a hospital equipped to help people in disaster areas. A giant balloon keeps the SkyLifter afloat. Hanging underneath is a pod containing the machinery, controls and the flight deck where the pilot sits. Below that a giant hook is attached to the hefty objects it's transporting. What a way to see the world!

LIGHT-UP PILLOW

Forget night-lights. This pillow is all you need. The Moonlight Cushion is fluffy on the outside and filled with light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, that use very little energy. Tap the centre and the pillow lights up, cycling through a rainbow of colours from red to blue to green to purple. Tap it again to turn it off. Not only is it a fun accessory for your room, it's useful – instead of fumbling toward the kitchen for that midnight snack, just turn on your pillow to light the way.



COURTESY OF ZEAL OPTICS (TRANSCEND GOGGLES); © FLIRT / SUPERSTOCK (SNOWBOARDER); COURTESY OF SKYLIFTER (SKYLIFTER); COURTESY OF THUMBSTUP! (MOONLIGHT CUSHION)

COMPLETE OUR SURVEY AND WIN A FAMILY HOLIDAY!

COMPETITION

Take our survey, send it back to us by 29 February 2012 and stand a chance of winning a fun-filled family holiday at Madikwe River Lodge.

You and your family could win a two-night getaway at Madikwe River Lodge. Valued at over R20 000, this prize includes accommodation (two adults and two children*), flights and transfers, meals and an awesome game drive!

The lodge is on the banks of the Groot Marico River in the diverse Madikwe Game Reserve. It offers guests complete luxury and unmatched wildlife experiences. Activities include bush walks, star gazing, bird tours, fauna and flora and exhilarating night drives. Madikwe's convenient location – only three and a half hours from Gauteng and a mere 45 minutes by air – has ensured its popularity. A stunning

lodge with excellent facilities and spectacular surroundings ensures a memorable experience for all.



MADIKWE
RIVER LODGE

If you'd prefer to fill in the survey online, please go to ngkids.co.za



SECTION ONE: KIDS SAY!

Hi, kids. We want YOUR opinion! Please let us know what you think of National Geographic Kids to help us make the magazine better. For all the questions, make sure you tick only one answer where you see boxes unless there is a different instruction. Are you ready? Get set and go!

ABOUT ME

1. I am:

- ☐ A boy ☐ A girl

2. I am:

- ☐ 6 (or younger) ☐ 7 ☐ 8
☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
☐ 13 ☐ 14 (or older)

3. My favourite subject at school is:

- ☐ Natural sciences
☐ Maths
☐ Arts and culture
☐ Languages
☐ Economic and management sciences
☐ Computer studies
☐ Geography
☐ History
☐ Technology
☐ Music
☐ Life Orientation
☐ Other: _____

4. At home I mostly speak:

- ☐ English ☐ Afrikaans
☐ isiXhosa ☐ isiZulu
☐ Sesotho ☐ Setswana
☐ Other: _____

5. I love to play these sports:

(tick a maximum of three)

- ☐ Hockey ☐ Netball
☐ Soccer ☐ Rugby
☐ Volleyball ☐ Basketball
☐ Tennis ☐ Swimming
☐ Dancing ☐ Horseriding
☐ Hiking ☐ Mountain biking
☐ Surfing ☐ Bodyboarding
☐ Cricket ☐ Water polo
☐ Other: _____

6. When I grow up I would like to be a:

- ☐ Professional athlete
☐ Actor, dancer, musician or singer
☐ Scientist or inventor
☐ Veterinarian
☐ Teacher
☐ Doctor or nurse
☐ Pilot or flight attendant
☐ Lawyer
☐ Entrepreneur/own a business
☐ Chef or cook
☐ Game warden

- ☐ Accountant
☐ Photographer or journalist
☐ Other: _____

7. I would most love to explore:

- ☐ The African Savannah
☐ The Amazon River
☐ A haunted house
☐ Caves
☐ Space
☐ Under the sea
☐ None of the above

8. I have been on this kind of holiday in the past six months:

- ☐ Safari ☐ Camping
☐ Beach ☐ Overseas
☐ A trip to visit friends and family in another South African city

9. My favourite three things to do for fun are: (tick a maximum of three)

- ☐ Play sports or any outdoor activity
☐ Spend time with friends
☐ Play video games
☐ Spend time with family
☐ Read
☐ Make or build things
☐ Listen to music
☐ Go to the movies
☐ Watch TV

If you'd prefer to fill in the survey online, please go to ngkids.co.za

- ☐ Play with pets
☐ Other: _____

10. I read for fun:

- ☐ All the time
☐ Sometimes
☐ Never

11. My favourite animal is a:

- ☐ Polar bear ☐ Dolphin
☐ Lion ☐ Dog
☐ Horse ☐ Monkey
☐ Tiger ☐ Giraffe
☐ Other: _____

12. I have a pet:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Type: _____

13. If I could change one thing about the world, I would:

- ☐ Save the environment
☐ Protect animals
☐ End wars and terrorism
☐ Cure disease
☐ Feed the hungry
☐ End racism and prejudice
☐ Other: _____

14. I am concerned about the state of the environment:

- ☐ Very
☐ A little
☐ Not at all

15. Who do you admire most?

- ☐ My mum or dad
☐ People who work for good causes
☐ A famous actor or singer
☐ My grandparents
☐ Our president
☐ Business people
☐ My teacher
☐ A famous sports person
☐ Other: _____

16. The person who buys NG KIDS is usually ...

- ☐ Me! With my own pocket money!
☐ My mum
☐ My dad
☐ My grandparents
☐ A friend
☐ Someone else

17. I usually read:

- ☐ Nothing but NG KIDS
☐ Magazines
☐ Fiction and stories
☐ Comic books
☐ Non-fiction and factual stuff

18. I first heard about NG KIDS magazine through:

- ☐ Family
☐ Friends
☐ Adverts
☐ Saw it in the shop
☐ An expo or festival
☐ Don't remember

19. The things I always do in NG KIDS are (tick all that apply):

- ☐ Enter competitions
☐ Send in my letters
☐ Fun Stuff
☐ Family Projects
☐ Funny Fill-in
☐ Put up my posters
☐ Sports Funnies
☐ Send in my art

20. Usually, I read NG KIDS ...

- ☐ By myself
☐ With my mum or dad
☐ With a friend
☐ With my brother(s) and sister(s)
☐ With my grandparents
☐ With another family member
☐ With a teacher

21. Once I have read NG KIDS, I ...

- ☐ Throw it away
☐ Recycle it
☐ Give it to other kids to read
☐ Add it to my collection

22. I would cut up my NG KIDS magazine ...

- ☐ For school projects
☐ To decorate school books
☐ To stick pictures on the wall
☐ I would never cut up my NG KIDS mag!

23. The number of other kids that read my copy of NG KIDS is ...

- ☐ One ☐ Two
☐ Three ☐ Four
☐ Four or more ☐ None

24. The poster in the middle of the magazine...

- ☐ Always goes on my wall
☐ Stays in the magazine
☐ Is sometimes stuck on my wall

25. I prefer the following on the cover:

- ☐ Wild animals
☐ Animated movie characters
☐ People
☐ Pets
☐ Places

26. My favourite cover was the:

- ☐ Tiger (January 2011)

- ☐ Raccoon (April 2011)
☐ Cheetah (May 2011)
☐ Dog (July 2011)
☐ Caterpillar (August 2011)
☐ Astronaut (October 2011)
☐ Dolphin (December 2011)
☐ Rhino (January 2012)

27. My least favourite regular story is:

- ☐ Inside Scoop
☐ Guinness World Records
☐ Amazing Animals
☐ Weird But True
☐ Cool Inventions
☐ Fun Factory
☐ Bet You Didn't Know
☐ Extreme Weirdness
☐ Fun Stuff
☐ Incredible Animal Friends

28. I would like it if there were more of the following stories in NG KIDS:

- ☐ DIY projects
☐ Event listings
☐ Animal features
☐ Celebrity news
☐ Culture and tradition
☐ Science and maths
☐ Sport

29. In this issue, I most loved:

- ☐ Really Wild Dating Game
☐ Powers of Nature: Avalanche!
☐ No Arms, Amazing Feet
☐ Tsunami Heroes
☐ Fun Stuff
☐ Other: _____

30. Do you think the stories in NG KIDS are (Tick all that you agree with):

- ☐ Too long
☐ Too short
☐ Too boring
☐ Too young/easy for me
☐ Too old/difficult for me
☐ Just right

31. I prefer to enter a competition by sending:

- ☐ A letter ☐ An e-mail ☐ An SMS

32. I would most love to win:

(please number from 1 to 10 where 1 is the best thing to win and 10 is what you want least)

- ___ Board games
 ___ Toys
 ___ Clothes
 ___ Holidays for my family
 ___ Books
 ___ Tablet computer like an iPad
 ___ MP3-player/iPod
 ___ CDs/DVDs

- ___ Game consoles
- ___ Computer/laptop
- ___ PlayStation/Wii/XBox games
- ___ Camera equipment

33. I most like the ads in NG KIDS that...

- ☐ Are funny and make me laugh
- ☐ Tell me something interesting
- ☐ Are cute with animal pictures
- ☐ Have a puzzle, quiz or other game
- ☐ Are helpful or show me how to make something step by step
- ☐ Other

34. Other kids magazines that I read are:

- ☐ Barbie
- ☐ Marvel Comics
- ☐ Minimag
- ☐ Disney & Me
- ☐ Disney Princess
- ☐ Disney Junior
- ☐ Foschini Kids
- ☐ Hannah Montana
- ☐ Disney magazine specials like Cars 2
- ☐ Playhouse Disney
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ None, I only read NG KIDS

35. I use the internet ...

- ☐ At home sometimes
- ☐ At home every day
- ☐ Only at school
- ☐ Never

36. Excluding search engines like Google, my favourite website is:

37. I use a cell phone:

- ☐ That belongs to me
- ☐ That belongs to my parents
- ☐ I don't ever use a cell phone

38. I use social networking tools like ...

- ☐ Mxit
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ WhatsApp
- ☐ BBM
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ None

39. I have a (tick all that apply):

- ☐ PlayStation 3
- ☐ Nintendo Wii
- ☐ Xbox
- ☐ iPod/MP3-player
- ☐ Laptop
- ☐ PC
- ☐ Kindle
- ☐ iPad
- ☐ TV in my room

40. How much pocket money do you get per month? (If you get weekly pocket money, multiply by four to give us the monthly total.)

41. I mostly spend my pocket money on:

- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Movies
- ☐ Tuck shop and eating out
- ☐ Air time
- ☐ Toys
- ☐ Magazines/books
- ☐ DVDs
- ☐ Computer games
- ☐ Other: _____

42. What did you do with the animal cards bagged with the June and September 2011 issues of NG KIDS?

- ☐ Cut them out and played with them
- ☐ Used them for school projects
- ☐ I didn't get them
- ☐ Threw them away

43. What do you like best about NG KIDS?

44. What do you like least about NG KIDS?

45. On a scale of 1 to 10 how likely are you to recommend NG KIDS to a friend (where 1 is least likely and 10 is most likely): _____

SECTION TWO: FOR GROWN-UPS!

Please take a moment to share your thoughts with us so we can make this magazine even bigger and better for your kids! For all the questions please tick only one answer unless otherwise stated.

1. Are you the NG KIDS reader's:

- ☐ Mother
- ☐ Father
- ☐ Other

2. NG KIDS is published every month. How often do you buy a copy?

- ☐ I subscribe
- ☐ Every month
- ☐ Every two or three months
- ☐ Less frequently

3. If you don't buy it every month, why is that?

4. What is your most important motivation for buying NG KIDS?

- ☐ It's a great learning tool
- ☐ It's useful for school projects
- ☐ It's a healthy alternative to television
- ☐ My child loves the magazine
- ☐ It helps my child learn to read
- ☐ I want my child to know about animals and the environment
- ☐ It allows me to have a bit of peace and quiet time

5. NG KIDS costs R25,95. Is this:

- ☐ Very good value for money
- ☐ Good value for money
- ☐ Not really good value for money
- ☐ Too expensive

6. How long have you been buying NG KIDS?

- ☐ Since the launch seven years ago
- ☐ Three to five years
- ☐ One to three years
- ☐ The past year

7. If you were to subscribe, what would you prefer as a subscription incentive:

- ☐ Discount
- ☐ A chance to win an amazing prize
- ☐ A guaranteed small free gift

8. Do you mostly read NG KIDS:

- ☐ To your child(ren)
- ☐ With your child(ren)
- ☐ On your own
- ☐ Not at all

9. Do(es) your child(ren) influence your purchasing decisions:

- ☐ All the time
- ☐ Sometime
- ☐ Never

10. What would you like to see more of in NG KIDS?

- ☐ DIY projects
- ☐ Movie reviews
- ☐ Event listings
- ☐ Competitions
- ☐ Animal features
- ☐ Environmental issues
- ☐ Culture and tradition
- ☐ Science and maths
- ☐ Sport
- ☐ Other: _____

11. At home you have:

- ☐ SABC and e.tv
- ☐ DStv
- ☐ No television

12. What sort of internet access do you allow your kids to have?

- ☐ Only supervised
- ☐ Only for school projects
- ☐ Unlimited
- ☐ None

13. How do you feel about your child using social networking tools like MXit, BBM and Facebook?

- ☐ I encourage it, I think it's a forward-thinking communication tool
- ☐ I only allow it under supervised circumstances
- ☐ Facebook and MXit have an age-restriction of 13 years, so I don't allow my child(ren) access to these networks
- ☐ I don't like it, but I allow it

14. Do you follow us on:

- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter

15. What period of time do you allow your child(ren) to play video games?

- ☐ Four to eight hours per week
- ☐ Nine hours or more per week
- ☐ As long as they like
- ☐ I don't allow it

16. Are you a homeowner?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Planning to be in the next 12 months

17. How many cars do you have in your household?

- ☐ One ☐ Two
- ☐ Three or more ☐ None

18. Do you ... (tick everything you do)

- ☐ Recycle paper/glass/plastic
- ☐ Have a compost heap
- ☐ Use energy-efficient light bulbs
- ☐ Sometimes buy organic food
- ☐ Support eco-friendly brands over others
- ☐ None of the above

19. What is your average monthly household income (before tax)?

- ☐ Less than R9 999
- ☐ R10 000 to R19 999
- ☐ R20 000 to R39 999
- ☐ Over R40 000
- ☐ Prefer not to say

20. Where do you live?

- ☐ Eastern Cape
- ☐ Free State
- ☐ Gauteng

- ☐ KwaZulu-Natal
- ☐ Limpopo
- ☐ Mpumalanga
- ☐ Northern Cape
- ☐ North West Province
- ☐ Western Cape
- ☐ Outside South Africa

21. How do you feel about the advertising in NG KIDS?

- ☐ I feel happy with the current ratio of editorial to advertising
- ☐ To me advertising is a "necessary evil"
- ☐ I find some of the advertising interesting and relevant
- ☐ I would not mind more advertising if it results in a bigger magazine
- ☐ There are too many adverts

22. When it comes to the advertising in NG KIDS, I prefer the ads that:

- ☐ Are aimed at me
- ☐ Engage the children

23. What type of advertising are you most happy with in NG KIDS?
(please rank from 1 to 12 where 1 is the most and 12 is the least)

- ☐ Automotive
- ☐ Banking, finance, insurance
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Technology, electronics
- ☐ Leisure, travel
- ☐ Clothing, shoes
- ☐ Toys, entertainment
- ☐ Health, body care
- ☐ Food, beverages
- ☐ Household, kitchen
- ☐ Charities, NGOs
- ☐ Corporate social or environmental initiatives

24. On a scale of 1 to 10 how likely are you to recommend NG KIDS to a friend (where 1 is least likely and 10 is most likely): _____

25. Would you pay to have online access to NG KIDS archives for school projects:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

26. Would you buy a pack of five different back issues of NG KIDS for school projects:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

27. Do you buy any other National Geographic magazines?

- ☐ National Geographic
- ☐ NG Traveller SA Edition
- ☐ NG Little Kids

28. Finally, please use this space for anything else you would like to tell us:

Thank you for your time and your feedback. Don't forget to fill in your details below to be entered into the prize draw. Don't worry, we won't pass on your details to any third parties.

Remember to send in your survey by 29 February 2012

Child's name: _____

Guardian's name: _____

Postal address: _____

Postal code: _____

Telephone numbers:

(h): _____

(w): _____

Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Please provide complete information for entry into the draw.

☐ I agree to be contacted for further research.

Post your entry to:

NG KIDS Survey, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000
OR fax your survey to 021-406-2450.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. The competition opens on 18 January 2012 and closes on 29 February 2012. 2. The prize will be awarded to an entry drawn by means of a random number generator after the closing date. 3. The winner will be notified two weeks after the closing date. 4. No correspondence will be entered into. 5. The prize is not transferable and may not be converted to cash. 6. Entrants must be 14 years or younger at time of entry. 7. The prize includes flights, transfers, two nights' accommodation at Madikwe River Lodge, breakfast, lunch, dinner and one game drive for two adults and two children sharing. *Children must be 14 years or under to qualify for shared accommodation. 8. Extras such as beverages, telephone, laundry, curios, gratuities and other additional expenses are not included. 9. Airport taxes will be for the winner's account. 10. Staff of Media24 (Ltd) and their immediate family, sponsors and their advertising agencies may not enter. 11. The entrant accepts that entry to the competition does not constitute a contract of any form of legal commitment between the entrant and NG KIDS. 12. NG KIDS shall not assume liability for any ambiguity, error, oversight or omission whether negligent or otherwise which may be committed by an employee of NG KIDS, their agents or associates in respect of this competition. 13. Participants and the winner of this competition indemnify and hold National Geographic Kids, Media24 (Ltd) and the sponsor harmless against any liability, claim, damage or loss that may result from participating or winning these prizes.


The logo features the iconic yellow rectangular frame of the National Geographic Society, which is partially filled with a bright yellow light. To the right of the frame, the word "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "KIDS" is written in a large, bold, yellow font with a thick black outline and a slight 3D effect.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS





Cheetahs



MIREYA AND HER TEAM
DISCOVERED THIS TINY
MOUSE LEMUR.

EXTREME EXPLORER

Who can be a scientist? Anyone! I'm proof.

BY MIREYA MAYOR

I still remember my mum's shriek. "Mireya!" she yelled. Gulp! I raced into my bedroom. Uh-oh. She'd found the secret zoo I'd hidden under my bed.

I was nine years old and growing up in Miami, America. I loved wearing frilly dresses and doing ballet. Yet I was also endlessly curious about the wildlife around me. In my city neighbourhood that meant lizards, stray turtles, spiders and many more creepy-crawlies.

I'd climb up and down the mango tree in our back garden, hunting for lizards and bugs. I'd end up scratched, sweaty and dirty. The baby turtle was much easier to catch – it crawled onto our front porch.

I kept the turtle in my plastic wading

pool and sometimes in our bathtub. I loved watching its legs paddle as it swam. It was the perfect pet until it bit my grandmother—turns out it was a snapping turtle.

A BEGINNING

Now I was in trouble again as my mother had just cleaned under my bed. The animals in my secret zoo were crawling across the floor and that was the end of my indoor zoo. It was the start of something great, though. I turned my love of animals into the coolest job in the world. I became a scientist.

I'm not the kind of scientist who wears a white lab coat and looks

through microscopes. I hike through jungles, climb tall cliffs and swim with sharks. I travel all over the world to observe animals in the wild.

That's how I ended up deep in a jungle in Africa a few years ago. I was curious about female western lowland gorillas. I'd heard that the males, called silverbacks, were the ones who were always in charge. Silverbacks can weigh up to 180 kilograms. These giant primates protect their families from danger and when they charge you, the ground shakes.

INTO THE SWAMP

The silverbacks also decide where their families go and what they eat. At least



THIS MOUNTAIN IS FLAT ON TOP AND RISES ABOVE THE CLOUDS.



MIREYA CAMPS OUT ON THE SIDE OF ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS.

that was the thinking, but I didn't believe it. Up until now other scientists had studied mostly the males. Little was known about the female gorillas' behaviour. Being a stubborn female, my idea was that the female gorillas had a say, too.

I needed to gather evidence to prove my theory. Part of my method was to observe the gorillas up-close, so I headed to Africa. There I joined some other scientists who were studying a silverback named Kingo and his family. I planned to look for any signs of the females making decisions.

To do that, I had to follow the gorillas through the jungle wherever they went. Luckily for me, I've never been afraid to get dirty. Mud covered me from head to toe and sweat bees swarmed around my face. As I waded through a swamp, I tried really hard not to think about blood-sucking leeches.

At one point I slipped and grabbed a tree branch. I didn't realise there was a nest of ants in the tree. The nest fell on my head and hundreds of ants crawled through my hair and under my clothes.

They bit me again and again.

Suddenly I heard a female gorilla scream and saw Kingo racing to her. As I raced after Kingo, I forgot about the ants and mud. It turns out nothing was wrong, yet it made me think. Did she scream just to trick Kingo into going where she wanted him? That was clever!

The next day I saw the females lead Kingo back into the swamp. They sunned themselves and he sat in water up to his chest, pulling up plants to eat.

I'd asked a meaningful question: do female gorillas ever take charge? My theory was that they did. Now I had my first bit of evidence – silverbacks don't make all the rules.

I didn't have enough information to support this conclusion. I needed more observations. I couldn't wait to return to Africa!

BEING STRONG

Curiosity is not the only trait a scientist needs. Sometimes the job requires strength and endurance. I had training just by being a kid. I loved climbing trees or riding my bike

for hours. Following gorillas through the African swamp was hard, yet my strength was really put to the test on a different trip. This time I headed to a part of South America where giant, flat mountains called *tepui*s rise out of the jungle. Some are so tall, they rise above the clouds.

A scientific question took me there. I wondered what lives on these mysterious mountains. This area is so hard to reach, few scientists have explored it. That's why I thought we might find plants and animals that scientists have never seen before.

For three weeks my team and I used large knives to cut a path through the jungle. It was hard work, so you'd think we'd rest at night. The nighttime jungle noises kept us awake and chirps filled the air. We wondered what was making the sounds, so we followed them.

One night they led us to a plant with pools of water between its leaves. When we peered in the water, we saw a blue-bellied tree frog. Another plant held a bright yellow frog. We took photos. Maybe these were new species.

FINDING A LOST WORLD

Each day we got closer to the tallest *tepui*. It looked like a giant cliff rising out of the forest. Did I mention that I am afraid of heights and I'd never gone rock climbing before?

To find an answer to my question, though, I would have to climb more than 2.7 kilometres straight up. Now I knew why life on these mountains was such a mystery.

The cliff was too tall to reach the top in one day. As night fell, I saw where I'd spend the night—in a hanging tent. I say "hanging" because it was hanging from the cliff by a single pin. Inside I discovered a spider the size of a dinner plate and I barely slept.

The next morning I looked out and gasped. We were above the clouds and the sunrise turned the cloud tops yellow, orange, blue and purple.

I started climbing again. Soon I reached a spot where plants grew on the cliff. It looked like a garden. In a crack in the rock wall, I saw a black scorpion with tiny, white baby scorpions clinging to her back.

TO THE TOP

Finally I reached the top and couldn't

believe my eyes. Everything was black.

As I examined the black rocks, I saw something move. It was a toad with bumpy skin. Unlike most toads, this one didn't hop. This "pebble toad" walked like a dinosaur. That's the beauty of science. I was high up and covered in bug bites. I had more blisters than I could count. Yet here I was, holding a rare species in my hand.

When it was time to leave, I took one last look around. I wanted to remember it. Once again my curiosity had led me to one of the coolest places on Earth.

My team and I brought back plant samples and photos of animals we'd seen. That way we could study them more. Our studies proved us right. Some of the frogs were new species!

LOOKING FOR LEMURS

As you've seen, curiosity and strength are good traits for a scientist. So is being open to surprises. Some really great discoveries are made completely by accident.

That's what happened to me in Madagascar. It's one of my favourite places in the world. One of my favourite kinds of animals lives there—lemurs. This is the only place on Earth where

they live. I went to Madagascar to study indris. These lemurs look like black and grey teddy bears with small tails and big round ears. They are Madagascar's largest primates and the loudest lemurs. When they sing, you can hear them more than 2 kilometres away. They sound like a cross between a whale and a squeaky kazoo.

I wanted to find out how indris live. Every day I tracked indris through the jungle. They hopped above me from tree to tree.

LOTS OF LIFE

As I followed the indris, I wrote down everything they did and everything they ate. There was plenty of other life to observe, too.

I saw bright red tomato frogs and colourful chameleons. I even saw a leaf-tailed gecko. This reptile is hard to spot because it blends in with its surroundings. Its tail looks like a leaf and its brown skin looks like tree bark.

One night I pointed my torch into the trees and big, red eyes looked back at me. Maybe it was another gecko or chameleon? When it scampered away, though, its footsteps sounded more like those of a mammal.

MIREYA WONDERED IF FEMALE LOWLAND GORILLAS LIKE THIS ONE EVER TAKE CHARGE.



THIS SILVERBACK PULLS UP SWAMP PLANTS TO EAT.





MIREYA SAW MANY KINDS OF CHAMELEONS IN MADAGASCAR. HERE A PANTHER CHAMELEON CATCHES AN INSECT.

I wanted to find out what it was and there was only one way to do that. My team and I had to catch it. I had lots of experience catching critters. As a kid, I'd tie grass stems into a loop and gently lasso lizards. Then I'd slip off the loop and, after a quick look, let the lizards go.

SURPRISE!

I didn't think a loop of grass would work here. Luckily we had brought a trap with us. It's like a tiny cage and we put tasty bits of banana inside. An animal walks inside the cage to get the treat and then the door springs shut.

That night, however, it poured with rain. I doubted the mystery mammal would come out again in this weather.

When we checked the trap the next morning, though, I couldn't believe what was in it. A tiny, furry creature

looked up at me with big eyes. It was a mouse lemur. It was soaked, shivering and so small that it fit in the palm of my hand. I put it in my shirt pocket and raced back to camp.

I studied its features and measured it before letting it go. The little lemur weighed only 56 grams. I later learned we had discovered the smallest mouse lemur in the world! All it took was being curious and asking a simple question: what is that?

MIREYA: SCIENTIST

Sometimes people look at me and tell me I don't look like a scientist. So what does a scientist look like? Well, like me and maybe you. There are many different kinds of scientists.

So think about what makes you curious. That may be your first step to becoming a scientist who builds robots,

TINY FROGS LIKE THIS ONE CHIRP LOUDLY ALL NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE.

digs for dinosaur bones, solves crimes or finds a medical cure. The possibilities are endless.

As for me, I wonder what other animals are out there for me to discover and I can't wait to find out. After years of trekking through jungles, I've reached a conclusion. Being an explorer isn't just what I do.

It's who I am.

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(ILLUSTRATION)

Tsunami Hero

RESCUED OR REUNITED, ANIMALS AND PEOPLE PULL TOGETHER AFTER

BY SCOTT ELDER

Nearly a year ago a strong earthquake shook Japan. It cracked open the ground, knocked people off their feet and made tall buildings sway. Then things got even worse.

Kilometres offshore, at the centre of the quake, a huge section of the seabed had shifted upward. The massive movement created huge waves called a tsunami, which rushed toward the island nation. Walls of water as tall as nine metres crashed into the coast and swept more than nine kilometres inland, wiping out everything in the way.

In the chaos many human survivors were separated from their pets. "Animals are often helpless victims," says David Wybenga, co-founder of Japanese Earthquake Animal Rescue and Support. The organisation's animal rescue teams picked up pets for owners, delivered supplies, or collected wandering animals in devastated areas.

Many animal lovers went out of their way to help pets and wild animals in need after the tsunami. Some pets helped their owners, too. Here are four stories of survival and hope.



1

PUP RESCUED FROM ROOF

Three weeks after the disaster a helicopter crew spotted something moving on a huge pile of debris floating more than 1.5 kilometres offshore – it was a dog pacing on the roof of a wrecked house. The castaway canine had been swept out to sea by the tsunami, then managed to survive on the drifting roof.

A rescue team arrived in a canoe, wrapped the dog in towels and carried her aboard a larger boat on a stretcher. A woman from a nearby town saw the rescue on the local news and recognised her missing pet, a two-year-old mixed breed named Ban. Dog and owner were happily reunited – safe and on dry land.

The earthquake that shook Japan on 11 March 2011 was the strongest in the country's recorded history and the fourth strongest recorded on Earth since 1900.

POOCHES

ER A HUGE NATURAL DISASTER.

RESCUED



3

PORPOISE SURVIVES STRANDING

Masayuki Sato couldn't believe his eyes when he looked toward the flooded rice field. A baby porpoise was squirming in the shallow water, more than a kilometre from the shore. The tsunami must have washed the unlucky animal onto land.

Masayuki called pet shop owner Ryo Taira, who was rescuing dogs and cats with other volunteers. First they built a stretcher from nearby debris and tried to catch the porpoise in a net, but the confused animal wriggled away. Then Ryo waded into the water and cradled the one-metre-long porpoise in his arms.

The rescuers wrapped the animal in wet towels and took it to a nearby beach. As soon as it was placed in the sea, the exhausted porpoise gave them a wonderful thank you—it sprang back to life and swam away energetically.



REUNITED



2

POOCH TRACKS OWNER

When Kamata heard the tsunami alert in the coastal city of Sendai, he didn't evacuate immediately. Instead, he went to warn his neighbours of the coming peril. Kamata put his Akita dog, Shane, in the yard so they could leave as soon as he returned. But later, as he was heading home, the tsunami smashed into the city, blocking his path. Kamata had to flee to a school on higher ground that served as a shelter. He feared he'd never see Shane again.

Six hours later, another survivor told Kamata a dog was waiting outside the school. Kamata went to look: it was Shane! Miraculously, the pooch swam through the tsunami and found Kamata, even though he'd never been to the school. The minor cuts on his legs—probably from climbing onto floating debris during his swim—didn't bother the dog as he ran to his owner.

SAVED BY PUP



4

DOG LEADS OWNER FROM DANGER

After the violent earthquake ended, 83-year-old Tami Akanuma assumed she and her small shih tzu dog, Babu, were safe. The mutt was anything but calm. She whimpered and paced frantically, as if insisting on going for a walk. That was odd, since Babu doesn't like taking walks. But Tami put on the pooch's leash and left.

Outside, Babu headed up a hill instead of toward their normal route near the water. When Tami slowed down, the little pup tugged at the leash, pulling her higher. Once they reached the hilltop, Tami looked back and was stunned: the path they took was flooded and her home had been destroyed by raging brown water. Little Babu helped his owner escape in the nick of time.

The Truth
Behind the
Movie

FLYING Monsters

BY JOHNNA RIZZO

The 3-D movie *Flying Monsters* from National

Geographic explores the mighty pterosaurs that ruled the skies 231 million to 65 million years ago. Over time these cruisers evolved from clumsy reptiles to agile predators, but some scientists believe they couldn't adapt to one thing: the appearance of birds, which were better fliers and stronger hunters. NG KIDS went behind the scenes to see how three pterosaur species lived – before they went extinct.

DIMORPHODON

(213 MILLION TO 194 MILLION YEARS AGO)

Mammals could take it easy when the hawk-size *Dimorphodon* was flying over what is now Europe. Its teeth were made for crunching insects, scaly fish and reptiles. The small, sharp choppers were perfect for piercing hard exoskeletons but not much else. "They couldn't chew," says paleontologist Doug Lawson. It was crunch, gulp and go!

Dimorphodon was an early pterosaur and quite clumsy. Its big head and 1.3-metre wingspan meant that *Dimorphodon* had trouble balancing. It also had a 1.2-metre-long tail that interfered with walking. Still, it had the makings of a future fearsome flier. For instance, a fuzz-covered membrane called a uropatagium stretched from one ankle to the other to help it slow down and keep it from crashing... sometimes.





Many people mistakenly use the word **pterodactyl** to refer to all pterosaurs. *Pterodactylus*, the first pterosaur discovered by scientists, is just one group of pterosaurs.

Scientists think there were about **160 species** of pterosaurs.



QUETZALCOATLUS

(70 MILLION TO 66 MILLION YEARS AGO)

A 10-metre wingspan (about the size of a very small aeroplane) meant *Quetzalcoatlus* was the biggest creature ever to fly. Some scientists think it could cruise up to 120 kilometres an hour for about 16 000 kilometres. That's close to halfway around the world!

Quetzalcoatlus, which soared over what is today the United States, looked more funny than fearsome. It had a long neck that didn't bend and no teeth. So *Quetzalcoatlus* was a little odd-looking and a bad hunter as well. Scientists think the creature scavenged dinosaur carcasses and swallowed whole any little animal that scampered by.

TAPEJARA

(108 MILLION TO 90 MILLION YEARS AGO)

It had a wingspan of three to five metres, which even an albatross would envy. *Tapejara* was built to cruise the skies. Living in what is now Brazil, it lost the clumsy, long tail and developed a larger palm bone to support its longer, narrow wings. That helped it change direction at high speeds and roll like a fighter plane. A metre-high crest on its head may have worked like a sail to help it turn in mid-air and maybe impress other *Tapejara*!

Tapejara was completely toothless and used its hooked beak to grip and rip. Its pointy chin may have worked like a boat's rudder, steering through water as it looked for a fishy meal. But some scientists think it avoided sea snacks and sought easier fruit buffets.





Let your imagination run wild and create a wonderful artwork. Pick up a paintbrush, make a collage or draw something. Get arty and enter the NG KIDS Young Artists competition.

WIN AWESOME PRIZES

ART HAMPER



Nine winners – three in each category – will get an art bag filled with art supplies including Glitter Glue, Crazy Clay and more from Bostik! They will also win a year's subscription to NG KIDS, a Wii console with a uDraw Game Tablet, uDraw Studio game software and a copy of Pictionary, valued at R2 600 each courtesy of Ster-Kinekor Entertainment. The school that sends in the most number of entries will get the same prize package, art supplies worth R5 000 and three art bags from Bostik!

The uDraw GameTablet™ for the Wii™ is a first of its kind. It's a revolutionary game system that provides a unique and enjoyable way for kids and families to play with Wii™. Its innovative features allow kids to express themselves and bring their imagination to life. The uDraw GameTablet creates an all-new category of play through an easy-to-use system of controls. Also for PS3 and Xbox. Visit www.worldofudraw.com for more information.

WHAT TO DO

- Paint a picture, create a sculpture or make a collage. You can be inspired by anything you like and it can be any size!
- Decide in which categories you want to take part. You can enter one artwork in each category.
- Entries opened on 14 December 2011 and close on 21 February 2012.

WAYS TO ENTER

- Turn to page 46 for the entry form.
- E-mail your entries to yac@ngkids.co.za. Remember to write NG KIDS YAC in the subject line and include your age group with your artwork's title and category.
- Post your entry to NG KIDS Young Artists Competition, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8001.
- Upload a picture of your artwork to www.facebook.com/NationalGeographicKidsSA.
- Deliver your entry to ABSA Building, Media24 Lifestyle Division, Ground Floor Dispatch, 4 Adderley Street, Cape Town.

AGE GROUPS

- 5 to 7
- 8 to 11
- 12 to 14

CATEGORIES

- Collage or mixed media
- 3-D sculpture
- Drawing and painting

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!



GRAND PRIZE

**COMPETITION CLOSES
21 FEBRUARY 2012**



www.bostik.co.za



Prizes sponsored by Bostik and uDraw.



ISTOCKPHOTO (BIG IMAGE)

Build in 3D with Bostik

1. Use wooden ice cream sticks to make a beach chair, glued together with Bostik Art & Craft White Glue. Make the frame first, then build up the chair making sure your cell phone fits snugly.

2. Decorate the beach umbrella with Bostik Bling Bitz.

3. Make a magazine by cutting out small pieces of paper for the pages and sticking on a cover with Bostik Glue Stick.

4. Make a beach ball with Bostik Crazy Clay. Bostik Blits Stik Super Glue Gel is the only glue that can be used on Crazy Clay.

5. When you've finished your Bostik Glue stick you can use the lid to make a bucket. Stick the handle to it with Bostik Clear.

Treat your cell phone to a beach holiday! Using recycled material and Bostik craft products, you can make a summer fun cell phone holder. It's a perfect spot for your phone to recharge!

Lots of other beach accessories can be made with the help of Bostik!

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Sculptures and 3-D models can be made using all kinds of materials including clay, paper, metal or plastics.

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COLLECT THEM!
TRADE THEM!
PLAY WITH THEM!

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This **collectible minifigure game** has **kids** in South Africa **screaming for more!** **Series 1** was the **original Gogo's Crazy Bones**, **Series 2** brought along the **Evolved Gogo's** that had a **glitter finish!** The **Gogo's** set out to **Explore the World** in **Series 3**, while **Series 4** came with an **awesome card game!** Now **Series 5**, also known as **Super Star Gogo's**, is available in shops. They have a cool, **fuzzy feel**, so **go go get 'em** and **collect 'em all!**

Visit **www.gogos.co.za** for more information.

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Fun Stuff

games, laughs and lots to do!

Look, there's two!

It's back to school for a whole new year. In this class there are twins, find them and then 7 other pairs of things that are the same. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 50**



PETER WOODBRIDGE (ART)

What in the World?

ROUND AND ROUND

These photographs show close-up and faraway views of spiral-shaped things. Unscramble the letters to identify each picture. Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below. ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



ION **A** NMNC LORL



LOERRL ECR **T** ASO



IPLO **P** LOL



EOL **H** AMCNE ITLA



TEVOS **E** RR BUN



WOLLIOHPR



ACTA **S** SEIR



YAAX **G** L



DELIMPELI

HINT: On your plate, it's a pile – on your fork, it's a spiral.

ANSWER: _____ **T** _____

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Family Project

Quick 3 Valentines

Make three easy gifts and surprise a loved one on Valentine's Day.

SOMETHING FOR MUM

YOU WILL NEED

Red cardboard, scissors, black pen, teabags with tags, buttons, scrap material

WHAT TO DO

1. Cut heart shapes out of the red cardboard.
2. Use the black pen to write cute messages on the hearts.
3. Decorate with stickers, buttons or scraps of material.
4. Paste the hearts onto the teabag tags.
5. Surprise mum with a lovely cup of tea in bed!



BAGS OF LOVE

SOMETHING FOR YOU

YOU WILL NEED

Scissors, pen, two sheets of felt

WHAT TO DO

1. Choose the colours you want and use the pen to draw four hearts on the felt.
2. Carefully cut the hearts out.
3. Cut a small slit in the middle of each heart.
4. Carefully slip the hearts over the top two buttons of your shirt.



BUTTON HEARTS

FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

YOU WILL NEED

Colourful paper, cardboard, red or pink felt stickers, buttons or scraps of fabric, scissors

WHAT TO DO

1. Cut out a strip of red paper.
2. Draw three hearts of different sizes on the colourful cardboard and cut them out.
3. Cut heart shapes from the felt or fabric.
4. Paste the hearts onto each other – from big to small.
5. Put glue only on the top half of the hearts, so the bottom half is still a little loose.
6. Paste the hearts onto the paper strip.
7. Decorate your bookmark – be creative.

BEAUTIFUL BOOKMARK

Feast Fiasco

The *Animal Jam* characters are making a huge dinner in Jamaa's underwater world. But somehow their groceries got mixed up. Look at the menu and help them find the right ingredients to make their delicious meal.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

Menu

Baked butternut
squash
Green bean
casserole
Cheese platter

Strawberry
milkshake
Mashed
potatoes
Mushroom soup
Apple pie
Pumpkin pie



FUN factor

THE MUPPETS

It's been twelve years since they made a movie and the Muppets have all gone their separate ways. Fozzie performs with a tribute band called the Moopets, Miss Piggy is a plus-size fashion editor at Vogue Paris and Animal is in a clinic for anger management. Even the Muppet Theatre is under threat – Tex Richman wants to drill for oil underneath it. Kermit the Frog reunites the gang and with the help of new friends they stage a telethon which might raise enough money to save it. **In theatres from 27 January 2012.**



MISS PIGGY CHATS TO US!

NG KIDS: What is your role in the movie?

MISS PIGGY: Moi plays moi. Naturally, all of Hollywood's top actresses tested for the part but in the end they decided that there is only one moi and I'm it!

NGK: What is the funniest scene in the film?

MP: The scene where Kermie begs me to come back to Hollywood with him. I'm hilarious and the frog isn't half bad either.

NGK: What do you do in your free time?

MP: Shop. Eat chocolate. Pose for photographers. Rinse. Repeat. I'm a diva. I have people to schedule my free time.

NGK: Are you and Kermit together?

MP: Of course we're together. In the movie we seem to be apart, but that's just for dramatic tension. In real life we're fabulously happy and the longest-running interspecies couple in all of Hollywood.



WIN A HAMPER!

You can win one of three Muppets Hampers. SMS* "NGK Muppet" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.



PLAY THIS! ↓

WIN A GAME!

You can win one of two hampers containing a Mario hoodie and mug. SMS* "NGK Mario" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.



HINT:

Complete the first eight worlds as Mario, unlocking the special worlds. Then complete the Castle and Luigi will be unlocked.

SUPER MARIO 3D LAND NINTENDO 3DS

Once again you are Mario and on a mission to save Princess Peach. A huge storm blows all the magical leaves off the Tail-Tree and Mario suspects foul play, especially when Bowser kidnaps Princess Peach the next day. He must have stolen the leaves, too! These leaves have superpowers and when you find them, you can wear the Tanooki suit. This powerful raccoon-like suit allows you to attack your enemy with your tail and fly for a while if you jump high enough. Travel through the 3-D Mushroom Kingdom and find all the leaves, jumping from block to block and unlock special passages to reach your goal. Look out for the Statue Leaf: you can use it any time to turn into a statue. You might also spot some of your enemies wearing the Tanooki suit, so be careful. Super Mario 3D-land has eye-popping 3-D visuals that make your adventure even more exciting. Can you defeat Bowser and save Princess Peach? "Let's go!"



WIN THIS!

You can win one of five copies of Treasure Buddies. SMS* "Treasure" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.

TREASURE BUDDIES

Rosebud, B-Dawg, Budderball, Buddha and Mudbud are off on a tail-wagging adventure to Egypt in search of the greatest treasure known to animalkind – the legendary Cat's Eye jewel from the lost treasure of Cleopatra. Danger lurks around every secret sphinx, cryptic crypt and puzzling pyramid as the devious cat Ubasti plots to possess the mystical jewel and use its powerful energy to rid the planet of all dogs! **Treasure Buddies is out on DVD from 27 February 2012.**





NG KIDS YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM



FULL NAME: AGE: BIRTH DATE:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

SCHOOL:

ARTWORK TITLE/S:

CATEGORIES: (you can enter up to three artworks)

- ☐ DRAWING AND PAINTING
- ☐ SCULPTURE
- ☐ COLLAGE AND MIXED MEDIA

This is my own original work and I give NG KIDS permission to publish and display my art. I agree that the art will become the property of NG KIDS and that all rights are transferred to NG KIDS.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

HOME

GUARDIAN'S CELL

NAME OF GUARDIAN:

SIGNATURE



Closing date: 21 February 2012

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. The competition opened on 14 December 2011 and closes on 21 February 2012.
2. It is open to all readers who are between 5 and 14 years old on 1 February 2012.
3. All art must be the entrant's own work.
4. Only one artwork for each category per entrant will be accepted.
5. All entries remain the property of NG KIDS and we regret that we cannot return any artwork or CDs.
6. Please supply a residential rather than a postal address.
7. NG KIDS and the National Geographic Society retain the right to use all artwork in post-competition publicity throughout the world. We reserve the right to exhibit artwork with a credit to the artist. The winners have the right to decline to have their name advertised or listed publicly. In this instance NG KIDS/NGS reserves the right to publish their artwork without credit and by entering into this competition they accept this.
8. The National Geographic Society and Media24 accept no responsibility for loss and damage to artwork.
9. The winners will be notified telephonically at the end of April 2012 and their names will appear in the May 2012 issue of NG KIDS magazine.
10. Prizes cannot be exchanged and no cash alternative will be offered.
11. Allow two months from announcement of the winners for delivery of prizes.

12. A panel will judge the entries based on creativity (50 percent) and skill (50 percent). The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
13. Employees of Media24, sponsors and their agents or any company associated with the competition and their immediate families are not eligible to enter.
14. Digital entries will be accepted but remember that actual finished artwork has a far greater impact when it comes to judging. Should your artwork be selected for judging it will be compulsory for the entrant to supply the original artwork to NG KIDS at your own cost.
15. Digital entries must be 5 MB or smaller and must be in JPEG format.
16. Entrants living outside of South Africa accept that costs such as travel to South Africa and postage will be incurred in the event of winning a prize.
17. Nine winners will each win a Bostik art bag, a year's subscription to NG KIDS and a Wii console with one uDraw Game Tablet and uDraw Studio game software and a copy of Pictionary courtesy of Ster-Kinekor Entertainment.
18. The school that sends in the greatest number of entries will get the same prize package as the winners plus R5 000 worth of art supplies and three art bags from Bostik.
19. The entrant accepts that entry to the competition does not constitute a contract or any form of legal commitment between the entrant and NG KIDS.

20. NG KIDS/Media24 or the National Geographic Society shall not assume liability for any ambiguity, error, oversight or omission whether negligent or otherwise which may be committed by any employee of NG KIDS, their agents or associates in respect of this competition.
21. Entry signifies acceptance of the rules. Refer to www.ngkids.co.za for full terms and conditions.

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(share-call)

E-MAIL
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Tel. Cell E-mail

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Card No.

Expiry date

CVC (Three digits on back)

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Account: Savings ☐ Transmission ☐ Cheque ☐

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READER'S DETAILS:

To: Name Surname

Address Postal code

Tel. Cell E-mail

Birth date

Age



NGKFEB12

SIGNATURE

*Ask an adult's permission first! SMSs charged at R1. Free SMSs do not apply. The free Gogo's offer is open to the first 181 subscribers, thereafter only the discount of 15 percent applies. Offer valid until 21 February 2012. We reserve the right to replace the featured gift with one of equal value. Offer is open to SA addresses only. Please call 021-405-1905 for international rates.

Naughty PETS

CAUGHT
ON CAMERA

THIS
LOOKS LIKE A
GOOD HIDING
PLACE FOR MY
SUNFLOWER
SEEDS.



NAME Emmitt

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY
Leaving surprises –
not always seeds – in
her owner's shoes.

FAVOURITE TOY
Shoelaces to
chew through

PET PEEVE
Bare feet

NAME Bull

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY
Staring contests
with his buddy Mac.

FAVOURITE TOY
Mirror

PET PEEVE
Runny noses

FIRST ONE
TO BLINK HAS
TO TAKE THE
OWNER FOR
A WALK.



NAME Moose

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY
Helping new friends come
out of their shells – whether
they want to or not.

FAVOURITE TOY Slide made
of a tortoise's shell

PET PEEVE Speedwalkers

CAN YOU
COME OUT
AND PLAY?



NAME Houdini

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY
Escaping from his cage
to tease Harriet the cat.

FAVOURITE TOY
Shiny metal keys

PET PEEVE
The expression "free as
a bird"



GET READY
TO BE AMAZED
BY MY AWESOME
ABILITIES!

Art Zone



Macaw
Janke Esterhuizen, 12,
Koingnaas

"Samuel die Papegaai"
Christine Krüger, 9,
Tzaneen



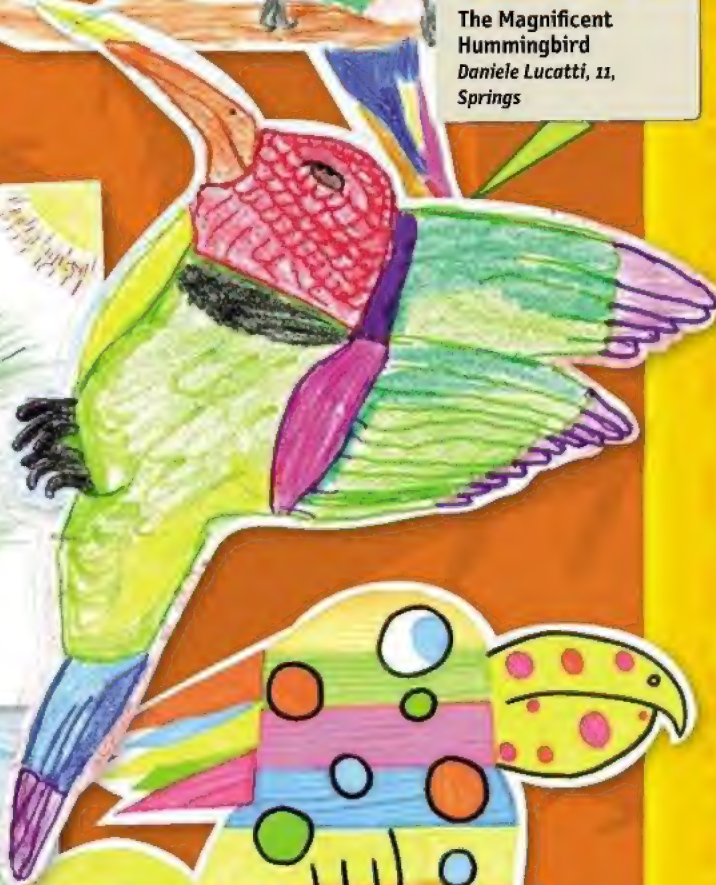
Tammy Toucan
Kate Meades, 8,
Mount Pleasant

NG KIDS readers sent us drawings of feathered friends. Aren't they birdy-ful?

Lilac-breasted roller
Callum Herbert, 8,
Camps Bay



The Magnificent Hummingbird
Daniele Lucatti, 11,
Springs



DRAW A crazy home for your pet.

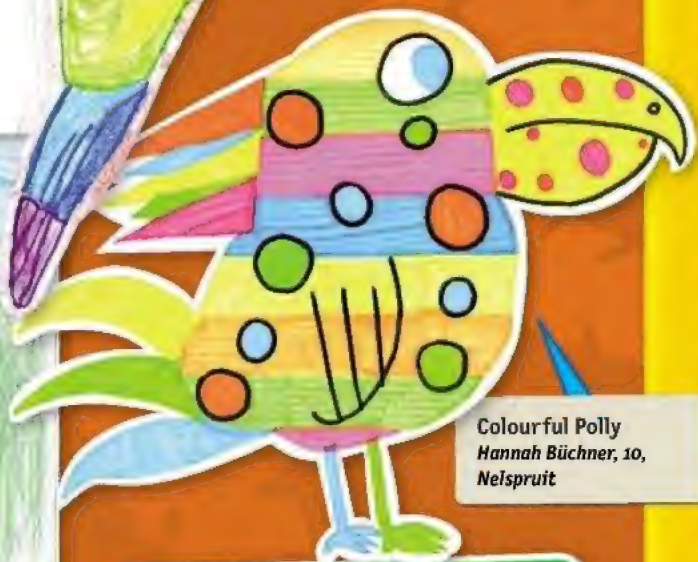
Send your original drawings to
The Editor at NG KIDS,
PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000.

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights thereto are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.

My Rainbow bird



My Rainbow Bird
Johry Duvenhage, 9,
Great Brak River



Colourful Polly
Hannah Büchner, 10,
Nelspruit

Our Lucky Winners

Our lucky winners from the November issue are:

A Nintendo 3DS console and the game
Professor Layton and the Spectre's Call
Daniele Andreone

How to Train Your Dragon: How to Steal a Dragon's Sword book
Dhivashan Govender, Giles Shepherd, Michael Loffhouse, Jarod Gratz, Ami Davidson

SUMMER activity pack



Bonus!
Ten cool
Gifts inside

ON SALE AT SELECTED
SPAR STORES NATIONWIDE

SPAR 

Just Joking

Horse



**KNOCK,
KNOCK.**

Who's there?
Thea!
Thea who?
Thea later, alligator!

You **must** be joking...

Q What do you call
a pig
with
three
eyes?



A Pttig!

A

Q



How does a
group of
dolphins
make a
decision?

Flipper coin!

A

Q

What's in the
middle of a
jellyfish?

A Jellybutton!

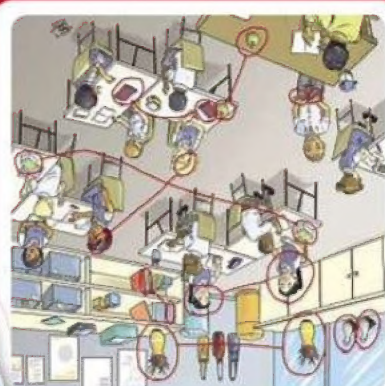
A

Answers



"Feast Fiasco" (page 44):

Top row: cinnamon roll, roller coaster, lollipop. Middle row: chameleon tail, stove burner, whirlpool. Bottom row: staircase, galaxy, millipede. Bonus: spaghetti!



"Fun Stuff" (page 41):

ISTOCKPHOTO (ALL IMAGES)



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